

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRN/EI

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CHARTERS

REF: DUBLIN'S A-125, AUG 28, 1973

SUMMARY: REPORTS THAT NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING SHANNON DROPPED BY 25 PERCENT DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR HAS STIMULATED STRONG EDITORIAL IN AUG 31 "IRISH PRESS" CALLING FOR MORE LIBERAL IRISH APPROACH TO CHARTERS. END SUMMARY

1. DROP IN SHANNON TRAFFIC ATTRIBUTED TO FEWER CHARTERS, HIGH LANDING FEES, NORTHERN IRELAND TROUBLES, DROP IN THROUGH-TRAFFIC OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL TO AND FROM EUROPE, AND LESS USE BY FOREIGN AIRLINES FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. FEAR ALSO EXPRESSED THAT ADMISSION OF US CARRIER TO DUBLIN WOULD HAVE FURTHER NEGATIVE EFFECT. IRISH AIRLINES BLAMED SHORTFALL IN CHARTER TRAFFIC ON FAILURE OF ABC CONCEPT IN US.

2. HOWEVER, WITH SCHEDULED TRAFFIC RUNNING AT SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR, "IRISH PRESS" EDITORIAL LAID MAJOR PORTION OF BLAME ON IRISH AIRLINES WHICH "PREFERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DIRECT TRAFFIC TO MORE REMUNERATIVE SCHEDULED SERVICE

DURING HIGH SEASON."

3. EDITORIAL STATES: "IF IRISH GROUPS WERE TO CHARTER AMERICAN PLANES IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO AERLINTE BUT ADVANTAGEOUS TO SHANNON AND THE WEST. NO DOUBT MORE OF THIS TRAFFIC COULD BE GENERATED AND IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THROUGH AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT GOVT LEVEL TO NEGOTIATE A FAIR SHARE OF THIS FOR THE NATIONAL AIRLINE.

"ANY GOVT, IT APPEARS, HAS THE RIGHT TO BLOCK OR CURTAIN CHARTER FLIGHTS WHEN IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR OPERATION WOULD NOT BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. IN SHANNON'S INTEREST THIS IS A PROBLEM ON WHICH THERE COULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS."

4. COMMENT: PRESSURE OF ECONOMICS APPARENTLY INCREASING ON IRISH GOVT TO TAKE LESS PROTECTIVE STANCE VIS-A-VIS IRISH AIRLINES, AND MOVE TOWARD POLICY CALCULATED TO BRING GREATER NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS. NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO FEEL OUT GOI ON PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATING MORE LIBERAL EXCHANGE OF CHARTER RIGHTS. MOORE

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